

Det 9, 38 ARRSq Hist, Oct - Dec 68

CHAPTER III

OPERATIONS

MISSIONS

During the reporting period, Detachment 9 flew 377 sorties of which 95 were in support of aircraft or personnel in distress. There were 138 base support sorties, and 112 training sorties. The remaining 32 sorties were functional check flights. Of the rescue sorties, 69 were local base rescue scrambles and 26 were aircrew recovery missions. While most of these were quite routine, several are worthy of mention.

HOLLOWAY CRASH

On 5 Oct 68, the alert crew consisting of Capt Derry A. Adamson, Rescue Crew Commander; Maj Thomas H. Goodwin, Rescue Crew Co-pilot; Sgt Robert W. Colclough, Airborne Firefighter; and Sgt Henry Michalski Jr., Airborne Firefighter, were scrambled on a US Army CH-47 that had crashed on takeoff at Camp Holloway Field, $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles to the south of Pleiku AB. On arrival at Camp Holloway Field, Capt Adamson orbited the rescue helicopter, with the fire suppression kit suspended beneath it, until personnel were sufficiently cleared away from the wreckage for a landing. Upon clearance from the tower, Capt Adamson made a fire kit approach, set the kit down and dispatched the firemen. Sgts Michalski and Colclough went unhesitatingly to the burning fire, despite the small arms rounds cooking off. Meanwhile, Capt Adamson asked for and received clearance from the tower to cross over the downed Chinook to pick up the survivors who had been removed from the aircraft.

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On touching down, Maj Goodwin got out the rescue helicopter and directed the loading and securing of the injured, while Capt Adamson directed on the loud hailer. With the injured on board, Capt Adamson proceeded as fast as possible to the 71st Army Field Hospital, some seven air miles away, where he released his patients. One of the injured was able to board himself, while the other two suffered from severe burns, lacerations and multiple fractures. Then Capt Adamson returned to Camp Holloway to pick up the two firemen who had succeeded in putting the fire out and prevented possible injury to the large crowd that had gathered.

THE DUC CO MEDIVAC

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At 0615Z, Det 9, 38 ARRSq, was notified of a downed US Army O-1, Headhunter 18, tail number 57-2917, coordinates 13-47N - 107-29E. At 0630Z it was determined a valid SAR objective was available and Pedro 74, a HH-43F, tail number 63-9712, was launched. At 0700Z, Pedro 74, was informed that the survivors had been picked up and would be available for medivac at Duc Co Special Forces Camp - 13-47N - 107-38E. Pedro 74 picked up the two US Army personnel at Duc Co at 0715Z and proceed directly to the 71st Army Field Hospital. The pilot of the O-1 had a minor cut, the observer, a broken nose and suffering from shock. Survivors were Capt James C. Murphy, US 05423861, and 1stSgt Carrol J. Koe, US, RA 15248668, both of the 219th Aviation Company, 52 Aviation Battalion. The weather was not a factor. Crewmembers of Pedro 74 were Capt Derry A Adamson, Rescue Crew Commander; Maj Robert A. Bunton, Rescue Crew Co-pilot; SSgt Frank R. Deck Jr., Flight Engineer, and ALC David L. Patterson, Pararescue Specialist.